

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5849

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USMISSION NATO

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EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6875

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TU, IR, CY, EGEN, ENRG

SUBJECT: TURKISH VISIT OF IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER: CYPRUS ASPECTS

1. IRANIAN FONMIN KHALATBARI, IN LONG-SCHEDULED VISIT BILLED AS PART OF CONTINUING IRANIA-TURKISH EXCHANGES OVER MANY YEARS, WAS IN TURKEY AUG 20-24. CONSIDERING THE HIGHEST PRIORITY BEING GIVEN IN TURKEY NOW TO CYPRUS, CONVERSATIONS ON THAT ASPECT OF MEETING ARE OF MOST IMMEDIATE SIGNIFICANCE. ONLY THING RESEMBLING SPECIFICS IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE HAD TO DO WITH ECONOMIC PROJECTS, SUCH AS "INTENSIFYING COOPERATION" IN PREPARATIONS FOR GAS PIPELINE FROM IRAN TO ISKENDERUN, PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND NEW, BINATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES. IT NOTEWORTHY THAT KHALATBARI AND TURK FONMIN GUNES SPENT ABOUT HALF OF VISIT IN LOVELY AEGEAN RESORT TOWN.

2. AS FOR CYPRUS, THE COMMUNIQUE STATES KHALATBARI AND
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GUNES "EXPRESSED THEIR CONVICTION THAT A LASTING SOLUTION TO THE EXISTING PROBLEMS MUST BE FOUND QUICKLY, ON THE BASIS OF

THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF CYPRUS. SUCH A SOLUTION OUGHT TO GUARANTEE THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE TURKISH AND GREEK COMMUNITIES." THE VAGUENESS OF THESE WORDS ADDS SOME SUBSTANCE TO ANKARA RUMORS THAT THE GOT HAS BEEN UNHAPPY OVER LACK OF MORE SPECIFIC IRANIAN SUPPORT DURING PAST MONTH OF CYPRUS CRISIS. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AUGUST 27, IRANIAN MINISTER-COUNSELOR DARYOUSH COUPAL MADE IT CLEAR THAT COMMUNIQUE WORDING ON CYPRUS HAD BEEN KEPT VAGUE ON PURPOSE, AT KHALATBARI'S REQUEST. COUPAL SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT TO DO SHOULD TURKS INITIATE A THIRD ROUND OF MILITARY OPERATIONS (A POSSIBILITY WHICH COUPAL PERSONALLY THOUGHT WAS BY NO MEANS REMOTE). KHALATBARI, ACCORDING TO COUPAL, HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO GUNES THAT, UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, IRAN WOULD FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO REACT AS A COUNTRY WHICH IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS TURKEY'S "CLOSEST ALLY."

MACOMBER

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